

# BARRY COMMONER

August 8, 1974

Dear Mr. Ellsberg:

The greatest world issue of our time -- affecting every human being and unborn generations -- is the Energy Crisis. We had a foretaste of it last winter, but that was only the beginning.

Petroleum economist Walter J. Levy, writing in the July issue of Foreign Affairs, says:

"Today, governments are watching an erosion of the world's oil supply and financial systems, comparable in its potential for economic and political disaster to the Great Depression of the 1930s, as if they were hypnotized into inaction. The time is late, the need for action overwhelming."

Petroleum companies are reaping the highest profits in their histories and oil executives continue to be optimistic -- even enthusiastic -- about their future. The press is telling us daily of record earnings for the big companies in the second quarter of 1974.

But where is the investigation into the energy labyrinth that engulfs our nation? Who is leading the public discussion and laying out the facts on how we got from there to here? What Congressional Committee is digging for the answers? Why has our government -- and governments of other nations -- failed to develop and implement a global energy policy?

Our nation needs an "Energy Watergate" investigation -- to get at the truth -- with no axes to grind and no holds barred. More positively, we also need clear, solid information on possible solutions to the Energy Crisis, on alternative sources of energy available, on the practicability of developing each, and on the economics involved -- from YOUR pocket-book on the one hand, to the global monetary situation on the other.

You understand the crucial problems, but we need you to join us in a search for answers to what are potentially catastrophic questions. The Fund for Peace, in cooperation with the Scientists' Institute for Public Information, will hold a worldwide conference on energy in New York in November. Experts from many nations will attend. We're after the FACTS, and all their ramifications.

As a leader in the American community, your help is needed. Will you join the Conference Planning Committee, to help determine what needs to be done in the face of the Energy Crisis? We can't promise total solutions, but we can promise that nothing will remain under wraps -- no matter who is involved or what is disclosed.

Please use the reply card enclosed to let us know you'll join us. And thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Barry Commoner

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Dear Dr. Commoner,

I will be happy to join the Planning Committee  
for the worldwide conference on the Energy Crisis.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_